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Title: Need to review the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 2006 with a view to protect the interest of farmers and reel workers in Karnataka.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): The Karnataka Minister for Sericulture had drawn the attention of the Union Textiles Minister vide his letter dated 21.02.2007 regarding the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Act, 2006 which has evoked sharp response from the stakeholders in the State. The Centre had given assurance that the interest of Karnataka would be safeguarded. The Minister of State for Textiles, Government of India had convened a meeting of all stakeholders in Bangalore on 11.01.2007 and the concerns of the State were submitted to the Minister.

Stakeholders expressed satisfaction over prevailing system and are apprehensive of new system to be introduced in the wake of amendments to the Act. The Act touches the lives of lakhs of farmers, majority of whom are small marginal farm workers, reeling workers and workers from minority communities and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

The State Government had advised to drop the idea of permitting dealers to deal in pre-cocoon sector and save the farmers, seed producers and reelers from possible exploitation.

As the matter is pending with the Centre, I urge upon the Centre to kindly take immediate necessary steps to help the farmers.